

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01

/157 W

----- 027571

R 180230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2511

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PK, IN, BG, NP

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF BENGALLEES, NON-BENGALLEES AND POWS

REF: ISLAMABAD 10664, NEW DELHI 14660

1. GOP FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS DECEMBER 14 THAT REPATRIATION OF BENGALLEES TO BANGLADESH AND TRANSFER OF NON-BENGALLEES TO PAKISTAN BOTH EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF FEBRUARY. MOVING AT CURRENT RATE, HOWEVER, RETURN OF POWS FROM INDIA WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL END OF APRIL. SPOKESMAN GAVE FOLLOWING FIGURES FOR EXCHANGES THROUGH DECEMBER 13: 63,000 BENGALLEES TO BANGLADESH; 27,000 NON-BENGALLEES TO PAKISTAN FROM BANGLADESH, ALL OF THEM IN FIRST THREE CATEGORIES DELHI AGREEMENT; 15,000 - PLUS NON-BENGALLEES TO PAKISTAN FROM NEPAL.

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2. UNHCR REP KARACHI (COCHET) ANNOUNCED SAME DAY THAT

ITS CHARTERED BOEING WILL RENEW STOPS IN KATHMANDU TO PICK UP APPROXIMATELY 100 STRANDED PAKISTANIS PER DAY UNTIL END DECEMBER. PAK EMBASSY, ACCORDING UNHCR, HAS NOW GIVEN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO ABOUT 6,000 STRANDED CIVILIANS IN NEPAL.

3. COMMENT: GOP ESTIMATES ON TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE EXCHANGES SEEM CORRECT FOR MOVEMENT BENGALEES AND POWS BUT A BIT OPTIMISTIC FOR NON-BENGALEES. WE CONTINUE TO NOTE THAT NUMBERS OF POWS REPATRIATED AT WAGAH ON ALTERNATE DAYS HAS RECENTLY BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDING THE EARLIER ESTABLISHED FIGURE OF 840 PER REPATRIATION DAY. TOTALS ON FIVE MOST RECENT DAYS (DECEMBER 8 THROUGH 16) AS FOLLOWS: 903, 888, 887, 868, 932. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, POW REPATRIATION RATE MAY NOT LAG SO FAR BEHIND THE OTHERS AFTER ALL.  
BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

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